

## SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER, 1903, TO DECEMBER, 1905.

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### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This is the eleventh inventory of seeds and plants that have been gathered together by this Office, mainly from foreign countries, and represents two years of work.

It is not published to inform experimenters of plants that are on hand for distribution, because in the great majority of cases the plants and seeds listed have been imported for special problems upon which the Department is at work and they have been already assigned to their respective experimenters and are now, many of them, growing in some part of the country.

These inventories are historical records of the introduction of new plants, some of which have already started new industries in this country. In the past historians have as a rule disdained to consider the advent of a new crop as worthy of careful record, notwithstanding the fact that its arrival might exert a remarkable influence upon the development of the country. It is believed that the publication by the Government of such a record will avoid in the future for these new industries the uncertainty which now exists as to the time of arrival in America of some of our most important plant cultures, which were probably first introduced by the Department of Agriculture. To the large number of agricultural experiment station workers and others who are experimenting with the various introductions, these inventories will be almost indispensable.

As remarked in previous inventories no attempt is made to reform the nomenclature of the plants imported, for in many cases the identification of imported seeds and plants is impossible until several years after their introduction. They must first be grown and studied by specialists in the various plant groups, who are sure sooner or later to include them in their monographs, in which places, and not in such an inventory, botanists are accustomed to search for the most recent nomenclature.